

SPRING  
2011 NC

# outlook

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Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Spring 2011

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a conference about the church, for the church

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Ben Mandrell | Darrin Patrick

## The Gospel

September 23-24, 2011

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## **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Wake Forest, NC

Daniel L. Akin  
*President*

Kenneth Keathley  
*Dean of the Faculty/  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Administration*

Ryan R. Hutchinson  
*Senior Vice President for  
Business Administration*

Dennis Darville  
*Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement*

Alumni Staff  
Albie Brice, *director*  
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Lauren Crane  
Kelly Jo  
Allison Ladd  
Courtney Navey  
Ryan Thomas

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about alumni who are not receiving  
*Outlook*, please contact us at  
919-761-2203 or e-mail  
[alumni@sebts.edu](mailto:alumni@sebts.edu).

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). Southeastern is an institution of higher learning and a Cooperative Program ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Support comes through the gifts of the Cooperative Program and the individual friends of the seminary who provide assistance through wills, estates and trusts.

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# 3,977

The number of missionaries, pastors and other ministry leaders who have graduated from Southeastern Seminary since 2000.



## EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY



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# Letter from the Director

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Greetings Alumni and Friends:

I hope this letter finds you basking in the wonderful grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As President Akin to charged this year's graduates to pursue fulfilling the Great Commission, I pray you are finding immense joy in being a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your calling to be set apart for the sake of the gospel is an enormous task, and I know the demands of this task can seem overwhelming at times. The challenges and successes you encounter are rich testimonies to the work of our Lord through the saints of his church. Southeastern graduates are continuing to make an impact throughout the churches of the world, and your ministry is a vital component to the expansion of his kingdom.

As you read this edition of the *Outlook*, you will be encouraged to learn of an initiative our seminary is undertaking to better equip the local church. This initiative involves Southeastern partnering with local churches to enhance and expand theological education within their congregations. The concept is being identified as the Global Theological Initiative (GTI), and the model is based on Scriptural truths concerning doctrines of the church. This initiative opens the door for people who may never consider attending a seminary to have access to learning the Scriptures in a powerful and effective manner. For pastors, this transformation of the congregation through theological education positions them to preach and teach the Scriptures at a higher level—challenging their people to be faithful followers of Christ. I believe the GTI is going to be transformational in churches all over the world. Please be in prayer for God's direction related to ways you may be involved in the GTI.

In the days ahead, I covet your prayers concerning the alumni ministry. A few specific items to pray for include the growth of the Southeastern Alumni Association, God's blessing upon our first homecoming, which is scheduled for the week of October 11th and wisdom for our alumni officers as they participate in setting the vision for alumni development. Your prayers are crucial to this ministry, and I thank you for interceding on our behalf. I am praying for you and your families and am thankful for your dedication to fulfilling the Great Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you, and may God continue to bless you as you serve him.

In Christ,

Albie Brice

Albie Brice  
Director of Alumni Development &  
Denominational Relations





# Southeastern Seminary

## Pursuing a Missional Theological Agenda

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is a Great Commission seminary passionate for a Great Commission Resurgence in North America and around the world. We see our calling and assignment to serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by equipping the men and women sent to us to be Great Commission leaders who will build Great Commission churches. This agenda is placed upon us by the final marching orders of our commander-in-chief, King Jesus, who commanded us to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

In pursuing this Great Commission agenda, Southeastern is implementing a strategy that has both a North American and international component. We have launched what we are calling the Global Theological Initiative (GTI). Its purpose is to employ the resources of Southeastern to benefit theological education through strategic partnerships around the world. It is our intention to work in close partnership with NAMB and the IMB, and to serve well their outstanding leaders, Kevin Ezell and Tom Elliff. How thrilled I am that God has placed these two men in these most strategic positions of leadership. Both men are dear friends whom I deeply love and trust.

On the North American level we are doing something long overdue. We are entering into intentional partnerships with local churches across America to provide theological education and training. This GTI initiative is called the Great Commission Equipping Network (GCEN). In these partnerships, Southeastern is joining hands with local churches in training men and women to serve the local church, the nations and our denomination. Our goal is to have at



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Akin'.

**Daniel Akin | President**

least 250 churches in this network by 2015, if not sooner.

I believe this is an approach to theological training that is going to bear great fruit in the days ahead. Why? Two reasons. First, there are some things a seminary can provide more easily in terms of biblical and theological training than can a local church, even a large one. Consider, for example, the teaching of Greek, Hebrew, theology, ethics, philosophy and apologetics. Seminaries are set up and structured to quickly and efficiently deliver instruction in these classic disciplines. Second, some aspects of ministry are best learned in the refining fire and furnace of the local church. There is no substitute for personal mentoring and hands-on experience that can and should take place in the local church. Seminaries should not, and indeed cannot, replicate the intensely practical nature of pastoral training a student can obtain in the context of the local church. We are excited about this paradigm shift in training ministers and servants of the gospel and, under the great team we have assembled at SEBTS who are leading this endeavor, we believe the future is bright as to what can be accomplished for the building up of God's Church. This will not be a "one size fits all" approach, and we want to clearly say we are ready and eager to learn from our churches. We want to customize, as best we can, a theological training model that serves them well.

On the international side our Global Theological Initiative will be intentionally exporting

theological education – this time to the nations. Instead of bringing international students to America where the cost is great and too often they remain, we will be taking seminary to them. In many cases we will have the opportunity and challenge of providing this education in places hostile to the gospel and the Church of the Lord Jesus. In other contexts we will have the privilege of training brothers and sisters in Christ to take the gospel into places where American Christians are often denied access. And, in still other venues, we will help "raise the bar" with those who are already providing biblical, theological and ministerial training, but who want our help in improving and refining what they are doing. What an incredible honor! What an awesome responsibility!

The Bible says "to whom much is given, much is required." Southern Baptists have been given much. Southeastern Seminary has been given much. The time has come for all of us to give and give extravagantly to make famous the great name of King Jesus.

It was William Carey, the father of the modern missionary movement who said, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." Southeastern is going to have great expectations from God. Southeastern is going to attempt great things for God. Our Lord, we believe, has given us a vision for the future. We dare not sit back and not move forward. We are moving full-speed ahead, trusting him as we go. Pray for us. Help us. Join us!



# The Global Theological Initiative

## Southeastern Trains Men and Women Worldwide

Story by Lauren Crane

**T**heological education should be taking place, not only within the walls of a seminary, but within the ministry of the church, wedding together theological concepts with practical experience for the growth of ministry leaders.

This emphasis on the local church's involvement in theological education is a new effort of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The school, which has always encouraged students to supplement their seminary education with ministry experience and on-the-field training, has recently begun a new effort to expand the opportunities for students to earn class credits outside of attending the Wake Forest, N.C., campus. This effort, called the Global Theological Initiative (or GTI), is identifying like-minded, strategic partners that fit the seminary's mission to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission, employing Southeastern's resources to benefit theological education through strategic partnerships around the world.

"The best model for theological education takes place in partnership between the seminary and the local church," Daniel Akin, Southeastern's president, said. "It's a different day and

a different world, so delivery of theological education must change."

John Ewart, associate vice president of project development, said one of the main things driving the GTI is the fact that Akin announced at the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention that he wanted to see Southeastern partner with 100 churches for theological education.

"When we began to consider the potential for this movement, our team simply didn't think 100 churches were enough, so we sought to double that number. Our new goal is to have 250 churches (partner with us) in the next five years," Ewart said.

To do this, Ewart said several formerly separate departments have come together under the umbrella of the GTI to see students trained both on-campus and off for the glory of God. This effort literally reaches around the globe.

The Office of Distance Learning, which provides delivery methods for off-campus education, is now under the umbrella of the GTI. It will provide delivery systems through which students learn and study in a variety of off-campus contexts. Nathan Akin, the church partnership liaison, said, "This is the future of theological education. Delivery systems can change - students no longer need to be in the classroom." By

integrating Distance Learning into the Global Theological Initiative, he said it makes it possible for Southeastern to tailor a student's education to their situation, "putting Southeastern DNA into places we would have never been able to go before."

Also included under the banner of the GTI is the Center for Great Commission Studies, which oversees the mobilization and deployment of SEBTS students around the world and coordinates missional research and training. Through the CGCS, students can be deployed to long-term commitments (such as with the Master of Divinity in International Church Planting, or 2+2, program), as well as through short-term mission trips. The CGCS allows networks between mission agencies, church planting opportunities and other Great Commission partners to be established with the seminary and the students.

A third major component of the GTI is the newly-named Great Commission Equipping Network, which develops partnerships with churches and other Great Commission entities. Under the leadership of Steven Wade, the GCEN is identifying local churches and

para-church organizations that Southeastern can partner with to provide practical theological training through internships. Students will be able to receive solid, theological education through mentorships and off-campus training experiences with their pastor or ministry leader.

Qualifying churches and organizations may be involved as one of three participating levels – a Partner, a Member or a Center.

A Partner church or organization is one that provides approved student internships for up to nine credit hours of supervised field ministry under the leadership and mentorship of a qualified supervisor.

Some can also be Members of the GCEN. A qualified Member of the Great Commission Equipping Network, that is a church or organization with a pastor or leader who is both qualified and desiring to co-instruct, can participate in a co-teaching experience with a Southeastern professor. Students being trained by a network Member can earn up to 18 credit hours.

"These are situations where churches are conducting quality intern ministries, and they want to train and teach them practical things. We work with them on syllabi and content. In



coordination with our faculty they get practical field-based training along with the theological education from Southeastern," Ewart said.

The most involved level for a church or organization within the GCEN is to act as a Center. This option is available for ministries where a Southeastern professor is currently serving. Not only can a Center offer 18 credit hours like a Member does, but they can also offer additional classes that are relative to the faculty member's field. The relationship between the GCEN and Distance Learning maximize the possibilities of practical theological training to earn seminary credit. "There are key churches that we are working with in these areas," Ewart said.

Through this network with churches and organizations, Southeastern is better able to seamlessly integrate theological learning and practical field ministry into all facets of a Southeastern education. The participants and experiences can vary, from a local church with a solid leadership development process to a campus ministry developing young leaders. Discussions with local associations and other ministries are also occurring, enabling a student's education to be tailored to their unique situation.

"If we have a partner someplace, and we're looking at student mission trips, why would we not want to send our students to work with our Partners or our Members?" Ewart said. "The GTI with the GCEN provides another layer of strategy to organize where they'll go."

Although wedding theological education to the local church is not, and should not be, a new concept, Ewart said putting together these facets of the delivery system, partnerships and strategic missions emphasis is a new direction. Since January, Ewart said Southeastern has these teams working together to provide support for one another in this effort.

"To have a really dynamic, quality pastor training people through an internship in field-based practical experiences they engage in every day is absolutely crucial. In some cases in theological education there's been a dichotomy between the two," Ewart said. "There has been a recognition of the value of both, but at Southeastern we want to bring those two things together in a high-quality process. We want to acknowledge the value of that practical training."



# GCEN

## Broadens Boundaries of Theological Education in Partnership with the Local Church

Story by Lauren Crane | Photo by Kelly Jo

**T**he Great Commission Equipping Network, an expanded segment of the Global Theological Initiative of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, is encouraging the local church to take responsibility for theological education by wedding together the efforts of professors and pastors.

Through the Equipping Center Initiative for the past several years, Southeastern has striven to build relationships with local churches and parachurch organizations with the purpose of enabling students to earn class credits through internships. However, this initiative was primarily focused on field ministry experience alone. Under the guidance of Steven Wade, the director of the Great Commission Equipping Network, Southeastern is moving confidently in the direction of wedding theological education to the local church in a more substantial way.

"Now, with the GCEN, the possibilities for earning credit have really increased. If you add in the possibilities Distance Learning provides, a student's options to do his education while being mentored in a local church are endless,"

Wade said. "Eighteen credit hours is the norm when a student does his field ministry and takes classes at a Member-level church. They can earn up to 18 hours during a one-year internship, which includes nine hours of field ministry and nine hours of practical theological education," Wade said. The three levels of the Great Commission Equipping Network include churches and organizations that are Partners, Members or Centers. Each has different credentials and different class offerings.

Currently, about 35 churches and organizations have networked with the GCEN, enabling Southeastern to tailor a student's education to their specific situation.

Network partners – the entry-level classification and most common kind of affiliation – will be able to offer students internships under a qualified supervisor, worth up to nine hours of credit from Southeastern. Because all Master's degrees at Southeastern require some form of field experience, whether a

mission trip or internship, Wade said this is the most common way for students to experience the GCEN and learn both theological principles and gain practical ministry experience. For many students, this may look like obtaining internship credit while working at a local church and serving under its pastor.

Students who desire to do more of their education through their church or organization can also gain credits from Southeastern by participating in a more in-depth internship, which includes a significant teaching component, with a network Member. Member churches have classes where a qualified pastor or elder co-teaches alongside a professor from Southeastern.

“Students can earn additional credits while remaining under the mentorship and instruction of a Member-church pastor,” Wade said. “If a church has a leader who is uniquely qualified to co-teach with us, they can teach pastoral ministry, leadership, church planting, Christian missions or global contextualization. Being a Member church allows an expert in the field to co-teach with a Southeastern professor so it is academically rigorous, while being intensely practical.”

He said, “Most of our members require a vast amount of reading and writing, and they’re instructing the students in pastoral ministry while they’re doing it and getting practice. That’s a very healthy way of doing theological education.”

The third level for a church or organization with the network is known as a Center. These churches or organizations have a Southeastern faculty member fully participating, often as a pastor or an elder. In addition to the 18 credit hours they can earn through a Member, students at Centers will be able to take occasional courses relative to the specific field of the faculty member.

Currently, about 35 churches and organizations have networked with the GCEN, enabling Southeastern to tailor a student’s education to their specific situation. Although most of the participating churches have been formally approached about joining the network, Wade said some have learned about the program through friends or fellow pastors that are involved.

“The president has done a great job in talking about the local church working hand in hand with the seminary to train men and wom-

en, so we have a lot of churches asking, ‘How can we do that?’” Wade said.

“What we’re targeting is a church that is a healthy church, one that is missional and that has an intentional discipleship model and an intentional plan of training leaders. We are also looking for those churches with a healthy staff. It must have both.”

Healthy churches in conjunction with healthy educators train healthy leaders, Wade



Steven Wade, the director of the GCEN, trains leaders in Haiti.

said. This model of theological education is beneficial, not only for the students, but for the churches as well. Those that participate in the GCEN have used the network to connect them – not only to students – but to other churches as well.

“A lot of these churches that we’re able to connect with one another are strengthening one another. They call each other and ask, ‘How are you training pastors and church planters? How much time do they spend with the pastor?’

“We’re trying to connect GCEN churches with one another so they can sharpen each other, as well,” Wade said.

And the program is working. Students who have been trained in internships through lo-

have been trained in internships through local churches, Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapters, local pregnancy support services and other organizations have been better equipped as pastors, church planters, counselors and missionaries. Wade said many of them are moving forward now with the mindset of being part of training the next generation of leaders, with young church planters already expressing a desire to have their churches become Partners or Members so they can train their members for the work of the ministry. Furthermore, recognizing the responsibility of the church in theological education builds a healthy relationship between the church and the seminary, and it strengthens both.

"We're getting a good start. We're excited about the way the local church is taking responsibility for theological education," Wade said. Although the program is growing, both Daniel Akin, the president of Southeastern, and Wade have expressed their desire to see even more churches join the network and train even more students.

"It's my desire that every student that comes through Southeastern would go through this program," Wade said. "I love how healthy it is to see these churches take a major role in a student's theological education. It is right for churches to drive theological education and make use of seminaries, not the other way around."

# GREAT COMMISSION EQUIPPING NETWORK

[GCEN@SEBTS.EDU](mailto:GCEN@SEBTS.EDU)

[WWW.SEBTS.EDU/INTERNSHIPS](http://WWW.SEBTS.EDU/INTERNSHIPS)



"Southeastern forces believers  
to grow in their faith and pushes  
them to be more like Christ. I  
have never felt the way I do  
here."

Molly Woodward  
B.A., Christian Studies, 2012



**The College at  
Southeastern**

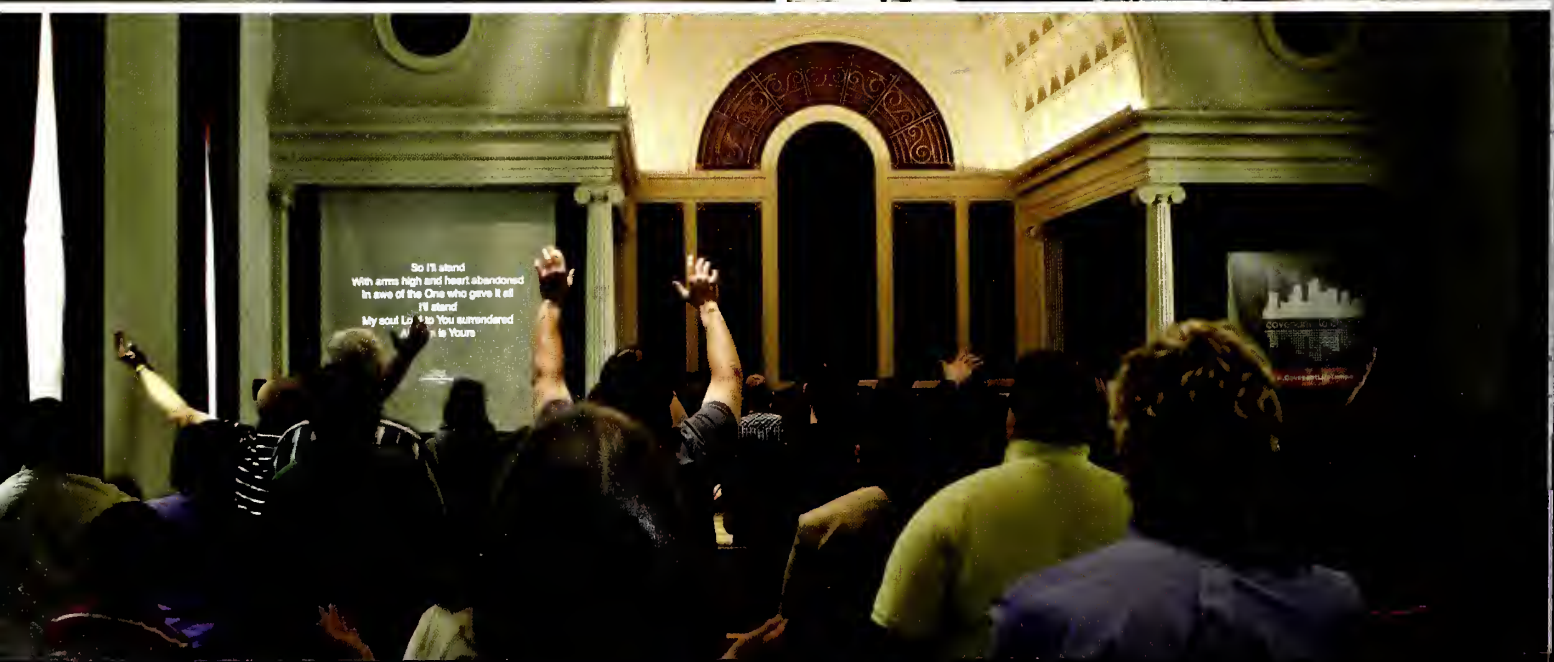
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# GENERATIONS OF MINISTRY

Church planters trained to pass along gospel truths to a new generation of believers

Story by Lauren Crane | Photos by Kelly Jo



The faces in the congregations are a mix of different nationalities, different socioeconomic classes and different generations. Together, they reflect the unity and diversity of the kingdom of God.

For Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary church plants in Miami and Tampa, Fla., contextualization looks different for each church, but through the training they received as students at Southeastern and the mentorship they received from their local churches, these two church plants are equipped to reach the diverse population of their Florida neighborhoods for the glory of God.

When they began their internships and church planting residencies at North Wake Church in Wake Forest, N.C., neither Justin Perry nor Drew Tucker knew they would be planting a church together in Tampa, Fla., only a few short years later.

As Southeastern student interns at North Wake, Perry and Tucker began to discern God's call on their families' lives to plant a church in North America. The details beyond that were yet to be decided. Under the leadership and guidance of the elders of North Wake, the two men and their families formed a team of missionaries with the goal of reaching Tampa with the gospel.

Perry, who earned nine credit hours from Southeastern while studying under the pastors and elders of the church, said, "The internship was both highly theological and immensely practical in nature. This mentorship proved to be immensely valuable in learning not only how to do things, but it also provided a

training ground to always have the value behind the initiative enforced."

Thanks to the networking between their seminary and their church, Perry and Tucker were able to learn theological concepts alongside their practical outworking. This joint-learning environment, coupled with the intense training and mentorship of their church planting residency, taught practical skills for the

church elders. During this time, they took seminars on topics such as personal holiness, the nature of ministry and suffering and serving the city as a church planter, to name a few. Tucker said that during the final year of their North Wake training, the church planting residency, they learned both the theology and practical implications of church planting, taking classes and seminars from



Justin Perry and Covenant Life Church minister to the homeless and diverse people groups of Tampa.

ministry by observing and walking alongside the elders as they led, made decisions and interacted with one another, Perry said.

When Perry and Tucker graduated from Southeastern in May of 2008, their formal training through the seminary was over, but they were only at the beginning of their training with North Wake. Over the next couple of years, the men were disciplined under the guidance of the

pastors and church planters from around the country.

It was during their time spent serving together at North Wake and learning alongside one another that Perry and Tucker began exploring the possibility of planting a church together.

"We went through the internship together and the church planting residency together. During the residency, we knew we were going to plant a

church) together,” Perry said. “We had the approval of the elders and some people who had been under our leadership (in our small group). They said it was a good partnership and a good matching of gifts. So, we began to figure out where we would go.”

At the suggestion of several people, they began to investigate Tampa as a possible location for a church plant. In trying to determine where God was calling them, they had agreed upon several criteria, including finding a city that was growing, had diversity, was home to a university and that would be a pioneer field.

“After conversations with many people, this city had everything we could want, but no one had said anything about what this city needs: a gospel-centered, Christ exalting church,” Perry said.

Covenant Life Church was planted in downtown Tampa in 2009, when the two families moved south and began meeting in their living room. Over the last two years, they have since

begun using a small chapel located directly across the street from the University of Tampa for weekly services, allowing them to intentionally target the downtown area with the message of the gospel. Through their involvement with pre-existing ministries and the creation of new ministry initiatives, Covenant Life Church is sharing the love of Christ with the homeless, businessmen, college students and students and teachers in a local middle school. Their proximity to the University of Tampa and downtown allows them to reach the diverse populations frequently and intentionally.

However, Tucker said their goal with Covenant Life Church is not to just see Tampa impacted, but to see all nations impacted by the gospel, ultimately reflecting the diversity of God’s people. In conjunction with Southeastern and North Wake, they are already exploring ways of training and equipping future leaders to be sent out.

“There is not much gospel-centered church planting happening in

the Tampa Bay area, and so we hope that CLC becomes a hub that will equip and send out planters all over our state, nation and ultimately the nations,” Tucker said. “We moved to Tampa – not just to plant one church – but to begin a church planting movement.”

In Miami, Southeastern alumnus Jose Abella is serving as the lead pastor of Providence Road Church, a multicultural church that is marked by a different kind of diversity. When Abella was a student at Southeastern, he and his wife Nira started a Hispanic ministry at Open Door Baptist Church. After graduation, they felt God was leading them to return to Miami and put into practice many of the things they had learned during seminary and while under the guidance of Open Door.

“At Open Door, I was part of the Shepherd’s Forum, which is really a bunch of students that are being mentored by professors who are members at the church,” Abella said. “I had

Crowley, Abella and Comesañas lead Providence Life Church in impacting the nations in Miami.



the privilege of being under pastor Dwayne (Miloni, pastor of Open Door Baptist Church). We were not trained necessarily for church planting, but we were being prepared for ministry as a whole."

He said the most beneficial part of his Open Door education was the ability to be part of the lives of the church's leaders. "I spent time watching other men and how they lead and serve, starting in their homes, and then how they serve in the church.

"It was about reading books, but it was also about watching them follow Jesus and live their lives and following Jesus the same. It was pivotal for me to be part of that."

When his time at seminary was finished, the Abellas felt God leading their family back to Miami to serve in a church there. Three years later, when they discerned God's call to church planting in Miami, Miloni and the leadership of Open Door once again provided guidance and resources.

"When we first felt called to plant a

church, I met with pastor Dwayne. The spirit of God gave us a desire to plant a church in Miami, because there's an incredible need," he said. Miloni provided fundraising suggestions, as well as practical ideas and a suggested timeline. However, the church where Abella and Alex Comesañas (now the pastor of community groups and member care at Providence Road) were serving at the time was unfamiliar with the concept of church planting. Abella said, "They had no framework for it."

During those tumultuous first months of starting a new church in the Coral Gables area of Miami, Abella and Comesañas relied on the wisdom and leadership of Open Door's leaders. When Southeastern alumnus Jesse Crowley and his wife began praying about church planting, Open Door was the catalyst for having them consider joining the team of Providence Road in Miami. Now serving as the minister of music and missions at Providence Road, Crowley "brings an Anglo feel to this ministry,"

Abella said. A predominantly Hispanic church, though services are conducted in English, Providence Road is seeking to reach the diverse populations of Miami and the world with the gospel.

"We want to be multi-ethnic," Abella said.

Both Covenant Life Church in Tampa and Providence Road Church in Miami have seen the fruit of learning jointly through Southeastern and their churches. Under the leadership of the pastors and elders, Abella, Crowley, Perry and Tucker grew in their understanding of Christ and his bride. Today, they're using that knowledge to reach God's people - whatever they look like.

"I am convinced that the best thing for future church planters to do is get involved in a gospel-centered church, and if possible a gospel-centered church plant, and learn on the ground from the formative days of a church plant," Tucker said. "I can't think of a better situation to train church planters."

Perry and Tucker, the leadership of Covenant Life Church, intentionally reach out to the businessmen and college students living and working in close proximity to CLC.

And if our God is for us  
Then who could ever stop us  
And if our God is with us  
Then what could stand against  
Then what could stand against



# Events from Around Southeastern



**Top Left:** During chapel on April 12, Southeastern commissioned students to go out and share the gospel with the world.

**Top Right:** Five Guys, a basketball team put together by the Office of Student Development, won Southeastern's faculty and staff basketball tournament, held on March 25.

**Center:** On May 5, Southeastern hosted the spring campus-wide cook out with food, games and live music.

**Left:** During the annual NCAA basketball tournament, Southeastern hosted a March Madness party, featuring games, prizes and the NCAA championship game on the big screen.



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# Around Southeastern

BRIEFS AND NEWS FROM CAMPUS, CHAPEL AND ALUMNI EVENTS



A personal encounter with Christ is important for redemption, Wright said on January 25.

## **SBC president addresses Southeastern family on resurrected body**

“Newness” was the theme of the day during Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary’s Convocation service on January 25.

The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention – Bryant Wright – addressed Southeastern students at the start of the new spring semester on the newness of life found in Christ. Wright, who planted and now pastors Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., preached to the gathered students on the resurrection of Christ, found in John 20.

Wright said, “God’s word gives us a picture of the resurrected body of Jesus Christ so we can hope for the resurrected body we will have someday.”

He said that just as Christ had both a physical body and a physical death, we too have a physical body and will have a physical death. However, Christ’s resurrection is a picture of what is to come for those who have believed in him, as we, too, will be given a resurrected body.

The first people to see Christ’s resurrected body, though, often believed only with their head, but never trusted Christ with their hearts, Wright said. “Why? Because they had not had a personal encounter with the risen Lord.

“The mission of the church is found here,” he said. “Once a person has an encounter with the living God he is to go and tell others that Christ died for our sins, Christ has risen from the dead and so will we.

“The important thing to share is how people can receive a resurrected body like Jesus’ resurrected body,” Wright said. “Share with them the importance of being reborn spiritually so when they die, they too can have a resurrected body.”

He said, “Let us remember that we will only have a resurrected body if we have had an encounter with the living Christ.” “Christ will be the only one without a perfect resurrected body, as his still bears the scars he took for you and me.”

## **Akin says normal Christian life involves death**

Just as Jesus asked his disciples who people said he was, modern-day disciples must also know who God is, because it will determine how they live out their lives.

Preaching from Mark 8:27-38 on January 27, Daniel Akin, the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, urged Christians to know what they believe about Jesus. It will determine how they serve him in ministry and with their lives, he said. Unlike others who form a view of Christ based on who they desire him to be, Akin said we have the text of Scripture to tell us exactly who he is, and this picture should shape our beliefs about God.

The question of “Who do you say I am?” is an inescapable question in the life of every follower of Christ, Akin said. The answers given in the passage not only applauded Jesus, but recognized him as someone to be emulated. However, Akin said, “They honor him but misrepresent him. They applaud him while denying him for who he really is.”

This same attitude permeates modern society. From the feminist gospel to the prosperity gospel, Akin said there are a number of examples of how Jesus is honored but misrepresented, and therefore,

never makes the correct impact on our lives.

"At the center of Mark's gospel we have the one and only acceptable answer concerning the identity of Jesus. Peter and the 12 rejected the prevailing opinions of the crowds and religious leaders, and so must we," Akin said. "Popular and trendy views of Jesus must always surrender to the clear and consistent witness of Scripture."

Once the disciples publicly declared that they believed Jesus to be the Christ in verse 29, Akin said the passage turns from what we believe to how we act. However, like modern disciples, once Jesus began preaching on the implications of being the Christ, the disciples began to balk. Jesus treats Peter like he was Satan, Akin said, because he recoiled at the idea of the suffering and death of Christ. "Like Satan at the temptation in the wilderness he offers Jesus the crown without the cross. He has a better plan than God does. Like so many then and today, he wants a Jesus who fits his agenda. He wants a Christ on his terms."

Akin said believers today are still guilty of doing the same things. However, he said rather than trying to redefine God in our image, we need to recognize and redefine ourselves in light of Christ and the cross.

"You must understand and accept that Jesus calls you to deny yourself and die for his sake and the gospel's." Christ articulates it in Mark 8, saying if any would follow him they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him.

"Did you come to Southeastern seminary to die? When you came to Jesus, did you come to die?" Akin said. "Deciding to die is not normal or natural. However, it is necessary to be Christ's disciple. It is not a quick death. It is a slow death, a painful death. The way may be hard. But the path and the end is glorious."

## **Sin problem requires new heart, not outward conformity**

Faithfulness in evangelism is contingent upon clearly understanding and presenting the problem of sin, Mark Dever said.

Dever, senior pastor of Capitol Hill Bap-

tist Church in Washington, D.C., said that without an understanding of what the problem is, believers will never be able to faithfully share the solution – Jesus Christ. In addressing Southeastern during chapel service on March 22, he said in Mark 7:14-23, Jesus taught the Pharisees that legalism was not the way to holiness, because nothing outside a man that goes into him makes him unclean. Thus, abstaining from outside elements, such as food or drink, does nothing to make him more clean.

Dever said in Mark 7:18-19, Jesus taught that the heart was the organ of sin –not the stomach. "Our problem isn't in our stomachs – it's in our hearts. The organ of real cleanness and uncleanness, Jesus is saying, is the heart, and unclean foods bypass it."



Dever told SEBTS family problem is within the heart.

He said, "What you decide the problem is plays a big part in what you think the solution is." Often, people think the problem is not doing enough good, being seen drinking, not being on a church roll or a myriad of other ideas. "They say it's something we do. Jesus disagrees. He cites arrogance, as if we were God, and folly, as if there were no God, as the problem. These go all the way back to the heart."

Dever said it is this honest portrayal of the problem of sin that is crucial in presenting the gospel. "You can't tell people what God wants by telling them how to live their best life now or how to have a more self-sacrificing life. Your non-Christian friends don't understand their own lives. They know something is wrong with all of us, and

Christianity is honest about that.

"Do not shy away from talking about sin. If you do, you make it impossible to understand. The heart is rotten. That's the problem." He said Jesus was calling the Pharisees to realize they themselves were the problem, and thus, we are the problem, though we do not like to admit it. "We like to think the problem is out there and the answer is in here (in ourselves)," Dever said, quoting Al Mohler. "The truth is, the problem is in here and the answer is out there.

"So what should our goal be? The Pharisees wanted ritual purity. What would our equivalent be – religious respectability? Jesus said we should aspire to purity of the heart," Dever said.

"We need a clean inside, not by our standards or those of the people around us, but a forgiven heart that God desires," he said. The cleanness and purity of heart will not come about through rituals or fasting, as the Pharisees thought, but through frank confession of sin, true repentance and acceptance of Jesus as Messiah.

"The real message is: You can't avoid the problem because you are the problem. We can't obey our way to salvation," Dever said. "The Lord said he would give you a new heart. No other religion promises that."

## **Southeastern BOV honors faculty, BOT approves changes**

Scripture teaches us to honor those who deserve honor, so Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary honored the institution's faculty during the spring meeting of the Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees.

The two boards, which meet twice yearly, came together on April 11-12 to honor the faculty of Southeastern as well as vote on and approve several changes to the school's budget and priorities. Throughout their time together, the Board of Visitors and the Board of Trustees celebrated and honored Southeastern's faculty. *Leaving a Legacy: One Coffee, One Conversation, One Class at a Time* explored the impact professors have on the lives of students, not only within the classroom, but through their

interactions and mentorships of students.

"We are going to pay a special tribute to our faculty," Dennis Darville, vice president for institutional advancement, said. "These men and women have given their lives to training people for service in the life of the church."

During the first meeting of the BOV on April 11, Kenny Goetze, president of the Board of Visitors, said, "They have been Sunday School teachers, deacons, pastors, coaches and counselors in our community. The influence they have on our community on a day-to-day basis is incredible. Your giving enables this amazing faculty to make a difference here."

The Lord is on the move, Darville said, among the professors and teachers of Southeastern. "Scripture teaches us to give honor where honor is due, so we want to honor those who teach us." Although many of them are "unsung heroes," working behind the scenes, Darville said people are able to observe the fruits of their labors of teaching through their students.

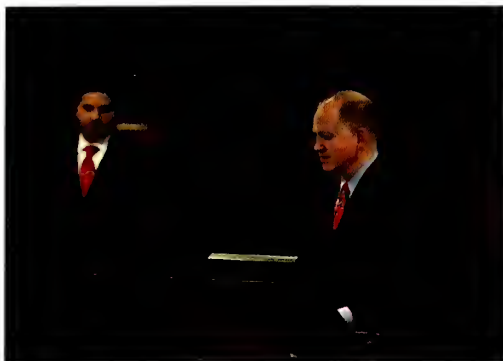
During dinner on April 11, Chip McDaniel, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Southeastern, said he wanted to share what a teacher does and why.

"We impact the lives of students, but with no time to develop a theology of education, we taught the way we were taught. I always knew teaching led to imitation. We tend to teach as we were taught, and our students take on our mannerisms as well."

Aware of the impact they have on students, McDaniel said professors have to also be aware of the motivation behind teaching.

"We have the admonition to go and make disciples, but shouldn't it be more personal? It's not something we can do generally in a whole class. God said to me to treat students as a younger brother or a younger sister, care for them, interpret the family of God for them."

This "older brother, younger brother" relationship is not developed primarily in the classroom, McDaniel said, but by sharing a plate of French fries, visiting a student in the hospital or taking a student along for a preaching opportunity. "Sometimes I think schools are about getting older and younger Christians



Akin pays homage to Southeastern faculty during spring meetings.

together, learning from one another.

"I'm convinced this is the stuff of Christian education – it goes beyond lectures," he said.

Southeastern's president, Daniel Akin, said he is so thankful for the Christian educators he is privileged to lead. "We learned during the Conservative Resurgence that a school changes, not just when the Board of Trustees changes, or when the president changes, but primarily when the faculty changes. By God's amazing grace, he has given us an amazing faculty. God has used them and motivated them to take the gospel to the world. I love this faculty. I count it one of the greatest honors of my life to lead them."

During the meetings the BOT also promoted two professors and elected three professors, approved an updated campus master plan and approved changes to a degree program.

Nathan Finn was promoted from assistant professor of church history and Baptist studies to associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies, while Daniel Heimbach was promoted from professor of Christian ethics to senior professor of Christian ethics. The trustees also approved the election to the faculty of Jeremy Evans, associate professor of philosophy, Tony Merida, associate professor of preaching, and Larry Purcell, associate professor of leadership.

The trustees also looked at the proposed changes for the Master of Arts in Bible Translation degree and approved it. The degree program prepares students to serve as translators and as field supervisors

for Bible translation teams, taking the word of God to people around the world.

An update to the campus master plan and a budget increase were both approved, as well. The updated plan is a list of priorities and estimated costs for various campus needs, both structural as well as aesthetic. In conjunction with surveys and suggestions from the students, staff and faculty, the campus planning committee submitted a plan that includes approximately 35 million dollars worth of upgrades and renovations to Southeastern's campus, including a new student center and renovations to the current Ledford Center for additional recreation and fitness facilities. The plan also includes renovations to Simmons Hall and shifting of other housing facilities to free up Lolley Hall for offices and a welcome center. Additionally, trustees approved renovations of Stealey and Appleby Halls, as well as the Denny Library, as part of the new master plan.

The recommended budget increase of 4.21 percent to a 2011-2012 operating budget of \$21.6 million was also approved. Because Cooperative Program giving continues to lag behind previous years, the budget increase will require a raise in tuition for students, many of whom, Akin said, appear to be struggling already with paying their tuition.

Akin said although enrollment numbers are at a record high of 2,689, the number of hours of classes being taken has not significantly increased, and in fact, reflects class load amounts equal to those in 2006. These numbers indicate that although more students are taking classes, they are taking fewer classes, likely due to economic concerns. Akin urged the Board of Trustees to encourage their local churches to give to the Cooperative Program, which supplies about 40 percent of funds for Southeastern's annual budget. Akin said in order for students to graduate without school debt, more financial support must be given to supplement the increased operating costs and budget.

"I'd encourage you to pray God will raise up more partners for annual giving and endowment," Akin said. "God is doing great things here, and we want to see that financial increase for the glory of God."



# SOUTHEASTERN DISASTER RELIEF

SOUTHEASTERN STAFF AND STUDENTS HELPED OUT  
THE LOCAL RALEIGH COMMUNITY AFTER  
THE APRIL 16 TORNADOES.

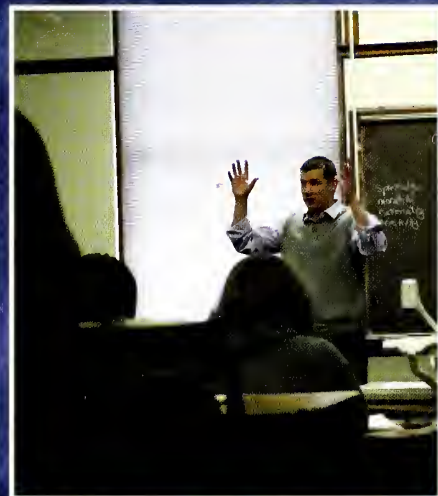
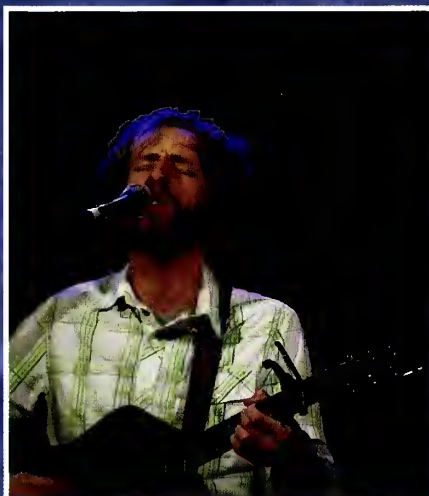
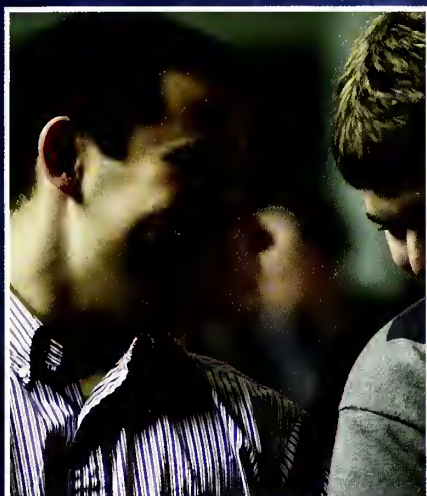


# CONVERSING WITH THE CULTURE

GIVING REASON FOR THE HOPE WITHIN

20/20 COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

On February 4-5, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary hosted the annual 20/20 Conference, *Conversing with the Culture*. Through the messages of Daniel Akin, Michael Green, Bruce Little and Al Mohler, students were instructed on how to engage and persuade culture for Christ. The men addressed the gathered young people on the value of accurately assessing culture, accurately speaking to culture and accurately sharing the gospel.





"It was such a beautiful marriage, seminary and the local church. I had professors and a president that not only taught it class after class, but I watched them teach non-seminarians and disciple fellow members in their own living rooms."

**Nathan Knight**

Pastor of Restoration Church  
in Washington, D.C.

SEBTS Grad., M.Div. in  
Christian Ministry, 2007



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Hear Nathan speak at the SEBTS **Alumni & Friends** Luncheon at the SBC, June 15.  
Register online at [sebts.edu/alumni/events](http://sebts.edu/alumni/events)

# From a Trial to a Lifetime of Faithful Service

Evelyn Carter serves Southeastern for 50 years



Story by Lauren Crane | Photo by Kelly Jo

On April 10, 1961, Evelyn Carter began her employment at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary on a “trial basis.” Half a century later, her trial period is over, and she is still faithfully serving.

In the spring of 1961, Southeastern’s first president, Sydnor L. Stealey approached his friend Charles, Carter’s husband, to ask if his wife would be willing to come and work as a faculty secretary at the young school. With only six faculty members at the time and one student wife working for them, Stealey was looking for someone who would be a more enduring fixture at the seminary to serve the faculty. Neither he, nor Carter, had any idea how enduring her time at Southeastern would be. On April 12, 2011, Southeastern seminary honored Carter for her years of service during a chapel service in Binkley Chapel on the Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

Fifty years ago, when Stealey approached Carter to ask her to consider becoming a faculty secretary, “I told him I needed to think about it,” she said. “I thought, ‘I’m not qualified to work for people with Ph.Ds. Dr. Stealey told me you never know what you can do unless you try.’” After continuing to discuss the idea of working at Southeastern, Carter decided she would work for two to three months on an experimental basis.

“I was willing to try, but I wanted to start on a trial basis to see if the people I work for were happy with my work,” Carter said. “In two months I worked every day, and every day I worked, I liked it more and more.”

By mid-summer of 1961, Carter was con-

vinced she had found her calling in life – to serve and support the work of the young Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary as a faculty secretary. “The professors were very nice. I never thought professors and people with more education than me could be so kind. They were like me. They were smarter than I was, but they never let me think they were smarter than I was. I told Dr. Stealey, ‘I think I have found my calling, and I am so happy. I’ll go full time, and if anything comes up to make you think I’m not qualified...we’ll work on it.’”

Over the next several years, Carter saw Stealey’s retirement and Olin Binkley’s succession as the second president of Southeastern. Throughout the eleven years of Binkley’s tenure as president, Carter worked faithfully alongside him and the other faculty members. Although it was a period of much change and growth for the seminary, Carter said she became increasingly close with the faculty and grew to love her job more and more. Following Binkley’s retirement in 1974, Carter remembers the beginning of William Randall Lolley’s fourteen-year presidential term at Southeastern.

“That was the year more professors started coming in. All of them were kind, and every one that came I loved them more. It was like a big, happy family,” Carter said. The family atmosphere led Carter to freely open up with the professors when she felt overwhelmed with work. “When I first started, I was young, and very careful with them. During Dr. Binkley’s and Dr. Lolley’s administrations, I got bolder. I had that privilege, and we got along great.”

As Lewis Drummond, Paige Patterson and Daniel Akin took over the presidency of Southeastern, Carter continued to work at the seminary in whatever office needed her. Although she never worked in Stephens-Mackie Hall, throughout her fifty years at Southeastern she has held offices in every other building on campus. "Evelyn Carter has served with grace and distinction every president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary," Akin, president of Southeastern, said. Not only has she seen the presidents and the campus itself change and grow, she has also witnessed the evolution of technology used in the office.

"When I started, they didn't know how to type. I started on a manual typewriter, then an electrical typewriter, then a word processor, then computers, and I got lost and have never caught up. I've survived through different times, different periods and different experiences."

In the late 1980s, as Carter's husband's health was failing, she was given the ability to take time off to care for her husband and household. "The year my husband died, he had been sick and had to go to Duke for various things. We were in and out of the hospital for two years. I told Dr. Lolley, 'I'm taking off, but I'm using my vacation time.'" Lolley told Carter not to use vacation time, but to care for her husband and let Southeastern care for her. One way they did this, Carter said, was by having professors come to their home to help pick butterbeans and plant corn in their garden – a task Carter was unable to do alone.

"Those years were the most special to me, and they are years I'll never forget and professors I'll never forget," Carter said. Although she considered retiring shortly after her husband's

death in 1988, Carter said she realized serving Southeastern professors was a blessing to her. "I didn't want to be at home, with nobody there but me. That wouldn't be good for me. I wanted to be active."

Carter's active lifestyle led her to take a trip to Israel in 1996, something she and her husband had been planning to do together before his death. "We were going to travel some, and in 1996 Southeastern gave me financial help to go to Israel. That was the highlight of my years.

I never thought I'd be able to do that, and to go with one of the professors I had worked with was wonderful."

Carter, who does not have any definitive plans to retire from serving at Southeastern, said she appreciates and is so grateful for every president of the school. "They have served this great institution so well and allowed me the privilege of reaching a goal of

fifty years at a place I love dearly. I will cherish the happy memories of every professor I have worked with during these years of service in the seminary and college. Their friendship, kindness and love will always have a special place in my heart."

Akin said he is thankful for her fifty years of service to the college and seminary. "She has been a marvelous servant of King Jesus who brightens and encourages everyone she meets. What an incredible blessing she has been and continues to be. I love this sweet lady, my sister in the Lord."

"The Lord Jesus Christ has blessed me in so many ways with his love, guidance, good health and strength to fulfill my goal and work for fifty years at Southeastern, a place that is dear to my heart," Carter said. "To God be the glory, great things he has done!"

**"She has been a marvelous servant of King Jesus who brightens and encourages everyone she meets. What an incredible blessing she has been and continues to be. I love this sweet lady, my sister in the Lord."**

**Daniel Akin,  
Southeastern President**

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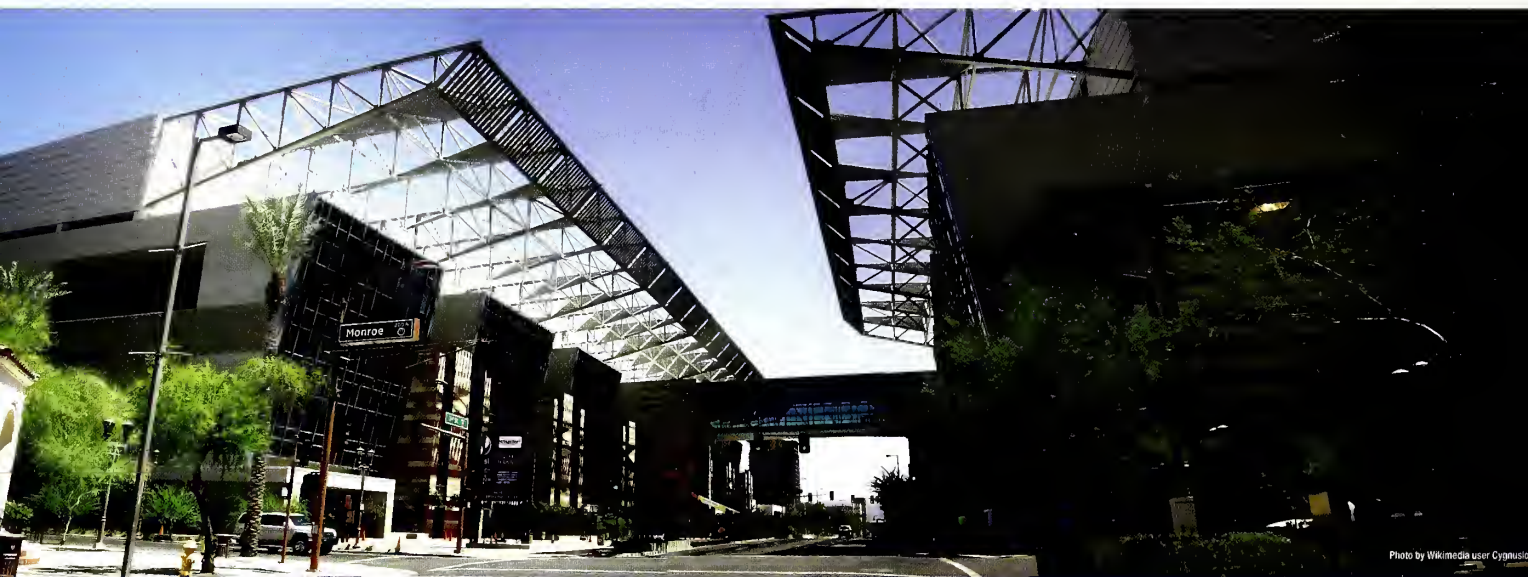


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## SEBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon

Southern Baptist Convention, **Phoenix Convention Center**, Phoenix, Arizona

**June 15th from noon to 2 p.m.** North Building, Level 100, Room 129A-B

Speakers - **Danny Akin**, president of SEBTS, and **Nathan Knight**, SEBTS alum & pastor of Restoration Church

\$25 per guest. Register online at [sebts.edu/alumni/events](http://sebts.edu/alumni/events)

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